

# Area Students P.A.R.T.Y. at the P.A.C.

## Theda Clark Trauma Center educational program continues to reach teens

Several survivors of alcohol-related incidents shared their stories of recovery at the fourth annual P.A.R.T.Y. at the P.A.C., sponsored by the Theda Clark Medical Center Foundation, and the Trauma Center at Theda Clark, April 3 and 4 at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton. Prevent Alcohol and Risk-Related Trauma in Youth, or P.A.R.T.Y., is a reality education program for students, allowing them to see and hear firsthand what can happen as a result of making poor choices.

Approximately 4,000 ninth-grade students from 27 area public and parochial schools attended the half-day events. Nearly 10,400 students have attended P.A.R.T.Y. at the P.A.C. since it began in 2005.

"All too often, we see teenage patients at the Trauma Center after they made poor decisions and engaged in risky behavior," said Kari Austin, RN, trauma and injury prevention nurse at Theda Clark. "If our efforts can prevent just one student from making a bad decision that results in a traumatic injury, we have done our job."

The greatest incidence of trauma injury and death occurs in the 15 to 24-year age groups. P.A.R.T.Y. at the P.A.C. delivers a powerful message about the perils of risk-taking behavior, the consequences, and the importance of personal responsibility – while

empowering young people to make informed, safe choices. The program included a high-energy opening, a student skit, by the Xavier drama troupe, presentations from trauma and neurosurgeons, and the personal stories from trauma and spinal cord injury survivors.

The emcee for the P.A.R.T.Y. at the P.A.C. was Ray Georgen, MD, medical director for the Trauma Center at Theda Clark. Participants included the Appleton Fire Department, Kaukauna Police Department, Kaukauna Fire Department, Gold Cross Ambulance, ThedaStar Air Medical, Theda Clark Medical Center, Appleton Medical Center, Xavier High School drama team, Neuroscience Group of Northeast Wisconsin, Surgical Associates of Neenah, City of Menasha police department, the Outagamie County coroner's office, Judge Thomas Gritton, attorney Eric Sparr, and attorney Tom Chalcoff.

The Trauma Center at Theda Clark began the first P.A.R.T.Y. program in the United States in September 1998. During its time at the hospital, the program, which was offered by the Trauma Center at Theda Clark and funded by the Theda Clark Medical Center Foundation, was presented to more than 10,000 young people in Neenah, Menasha and surrounding communities.

